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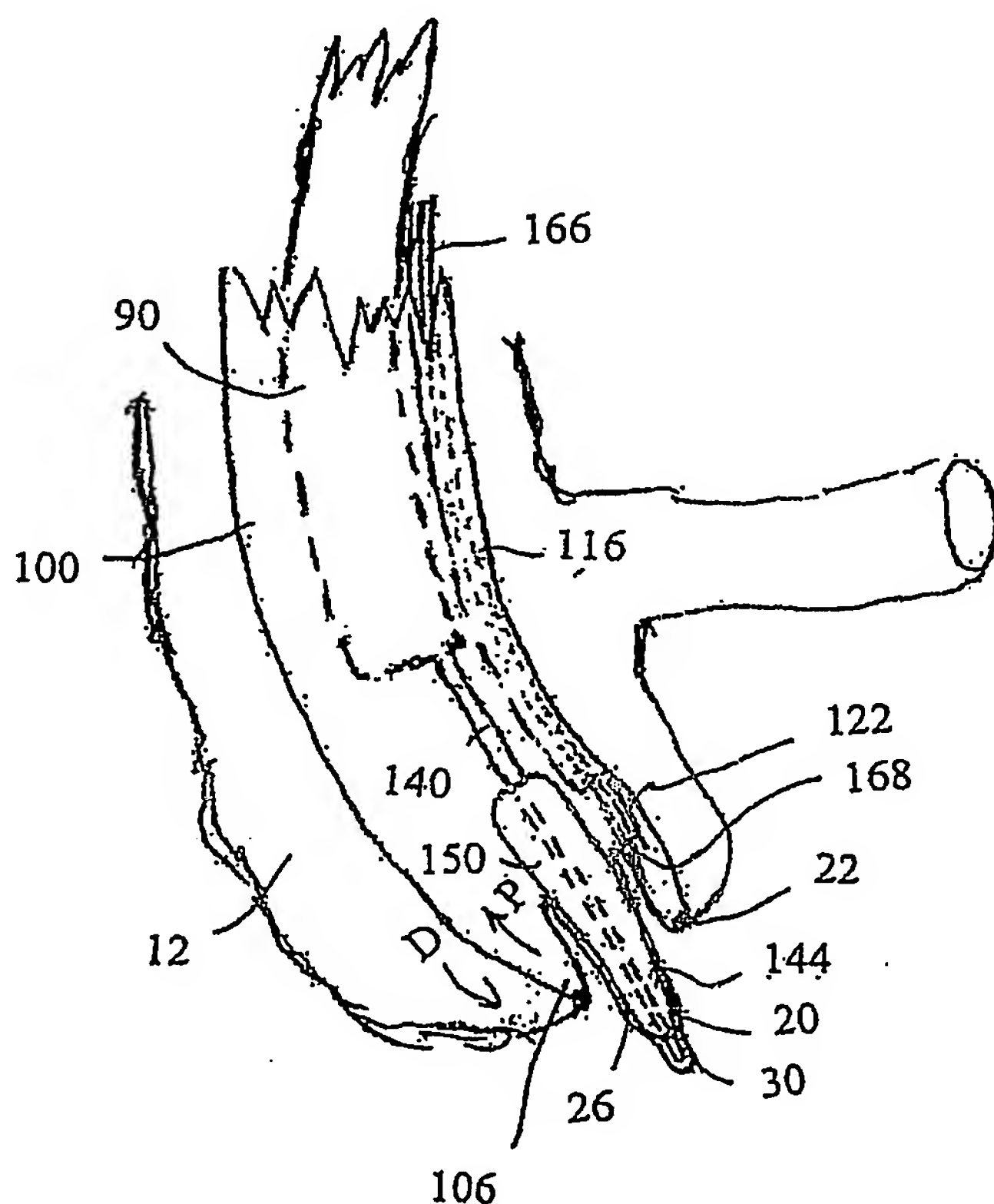
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR COLONOSCOPIC APPENDECTOMY

(57) Abstract: A kit for performing removal of a
vermiform appendix (20) from a patient comprises an
elongated flexible element (140) extending between a
proximal end and a distal end, means (150) attached
to the distal end of the elongated flexible element for
anchoring the distal end to interior walls of a central
lumen (26) defined by the appendix when the distal
end is disposed within the central lumen, a tubular
element (100) defining a central lumen adapted for
receiving a colonoscope (90), and means for ligating or
cutting (168) the appendix at the appendix base after
the appendix is inverted into the cecum (12). A method
for performing removal of a vermiform appendix from
a patient comprises positioning a colonoscope into the
cecum of the patient, irrigating the central lumen of the
appendix, guiding a distal end of an elongated flexible
element into the central lumen of the appendix, wherein
the flexible element comprises anchoring means
anchoring the distal end to the interior wall of the
appendix, providing counterforce against the appendix
base, pulling the elongated flexible element toward the
cecum, wherein the elongated flexible element draws
the appendix into the cecum, and ligating or cutting the
appendix.

WO 2004/082486 A1